English 3807: Victorian Literature
TR 9:30 – 10:45 am; CH 3150
Spring 2004
Professor Richard Sylvia
Office: Coleman 3775
Office Hours: TR 8:30 – 9:30; 2:00 – 3:00 pm; F 12:00 – 1:00 pm; and by appt.
Phone: 581-6292 (office); 351-1731 (home); 840-1194 (cell)
email: <cfras@eiu.edu>

Texts:
Dickens, *Hard Times*
Eliot, *The Mill on the Floss*
Mundhenk, *Victorian Prose: An Anthology* (VPR)

Course Description, Design, and Goals:
I have designed this course to introduce you to the major social, historical, and literary developments in England during the reign of Queen Victoria, 1837 to 1901. Class reading assignments include selections from the fiction, poetry, and non-fictional prose of this period, and I expect each class member to prepare these readings carefully and to come to class prepared to contribute to class discussions. These discussions will focus not only on the close reading of the texts, but on important contextual issues that will help us work toward an understanding of the period and each text’s relevance to it. I have chosen reading assignments carefully to represent the most noteworthy writers who respond to several of the most important issues of the day (see section headings). Some works you might find quite difficult. Do not be discouraged. Do the best you can and come to class willing to share your responses and to improve your understanding. To help you process the material, I will also give you weekly in-class writing assignments, either before or after our discussions.

Requirements and Grades:
careful preparation of assigned reading – 10%
regular participation in class discussions – 10%
weekly in-class writing assignments – 20%
one brief paper on an assigned topic – 10%
one longer paper, requiring use of outside sources, on an assigned topic – 20%
a mid-term exam – 20%
a final exam – 20%

Course Policies
Attendance at all class meetings is expected but not required. (After the first two or three weeks, I will not take attendance.) Remember, however, that in-class writing cannot be made up without a valid excuse, and that exams are based in large part on class discussions and lectures.

Please bring books to class. (Follow carefully book assignment notation on schedule.)
If you cannot make a deadline, please let me know in advance. I do not accept late work without a valid excuse. Please see me if you are having difficulty keeping up with the work. Sometimes even a brief conversation can clear up difficulties.

Papers must be typed (double-spaced) and documented using MLA style.

I would like to see each of you in conference some time during the semester, though I am not requiring it. I like talking to you about how your work is going in this course and in the others you are taking. The more I get to know a class, the more rewarding I find my own work in preparation for class lectures and discussions. Feel free to stop by my office any time you see me there or you may make an appointment. Something need not be wrong for us to have a chat.

If you have a documented disability and wish to receive academic accommodations, please contact the Coordinator of the Office of Disability Services (581-6583) as soon as possible.

I enforce the English Department Statement on Plagiarism: "Any teacher who discovers an act of plagiarism – 'The appropriation or imitation of the language, ideas, and/or thoughts of another author, and representation of them as one's own original work' (Random House Dictionary) – has the right and the responsibility to impose upon the guilty student an appropriate penalty, up to and including immediate assignment of a grade of F for the course, and to report the incident to the Judicial Affairs Office."

**Tentative Schedule**

**Jan. 13:** introduction to course

**Society, Class, and the New Economy**

**Jan. 15:** **VPR:** Kay-Shuttleworth, "The Moral and Physical Condition of the Working Classes"; Mayhew, "Labour and the Poor"; Prince Albert, speech on the Great Exhibition; Queen Victoria, journal entry on the Great Exhibition

**Jan. 20:** **VPR:** Carlyle, "Past and Present"

**Jan. 22:** **VPR:** Smiles, "Self-Help" and "Leaders of Industry"

**Jan. 27:** **VP:** Landon, "The Factory"; E. B. Browning, "The Cry of the Children" and "The Dead Pan"; Proctor, "The Cradle Song of the Poor" and "Homeless"

**Jan. 29:** Dickens, *Hard Times*, Book the First

**Feb. 3:** *Hard Times*, Book the Second
Feb. 5: *Hard Times*, Book the Third

**The Woman Question**


Feb. 17: **VP**: E. B. Browning, *Aurora Leigh*


Feb. 26: *The Mill on the Floss*, Books Fourth and Fifth

Mar. 2: *The Mill on the Floss*, Books Sixth and Seventh

Mar. 4: **mid-term exam**

**Faith, Doubt and the New Sciences**


Mar. 16, 18: Spring Break

Mar. 23: **VP**: Tennyson, *In Memoriam, A.H.H.*

Mar. 25: **VP**: *In Memoriam*

Mar. 30: **VP**: R. Browning, “Johannes Agricola in Meditation” and “The Bishop Orders His Tomb”

Apr. 1: **VP**: R. Browning, “Two in the Campagna,” “Rabbi Ben Ezra,” “Caliban Upon Setebos”

Apr. 6: **VP**: Hopkins, “God’s Grandeur” and “The Windover”; Hardy, “Hap,” “The Darkling Thrush,” “In Tenebris,” “In a Wood”
Victorian Aesthetics


Apr. 15: VP: Buchanan, “The Fleshly School of Poetry”

Apr. 20: VP: Christina Rossetti, “Goblin Market”

Apr. 22: VP: Christina Rossetti, *Monna Innominata*

Apr. 27: VP: Tennyson, *Idylls of the King* (“The Coming of Arthur”)

Apr. 29: VP: Tennyson, *Idylls* (“Lancelot and Elaine”)

*The date and time of the final exam to be announced.*